

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4230

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16204

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IT, UR

SUBJECT: BERLINGUER MEETS WITH THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY. PCI CHIEF BERLINGUER MET WITH THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND COMMENTED ON THE CARRILLO AFFAIR, THE SOVIETS AND THE EUROCOMMUNISTS AND HIS OWN AND BREZHNEV'S SPEECHES AT THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. THE CARRILLO-CPSU AFFAIR HE THINKS IS SIMILAR TO THE
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VATICAN-LEFEBVRE AFFAIR. HE THOUGHT BREZHNEV'S SPEECH WAS MODERATE ON THE EUROCOMMUNIST ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. ITALIAN POLCOUNS BRIEFED EMBOFF ON MAIN POINTS OF PCI CHIEF BERLINGUER'S NOVEMBER 3 COURTESY CALL ON ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW. SUCH CALLS BY VISITING PCI DELEGATIONS HAVE BECOME COMMON RECENTLY. THE COMMUNISTS

ARE USUALLY GUARDED AND ELIPTICAL IN THEIR COMMENTS TO THE EMBASSY ON PCI RELATIONS WITH THE CPSU. BERLINGUER'S COMMENTS FIT THE PATTERN. THE FOLLOWING ARE MAIN POINTS EXCEPT FOR HIS COMMENTS ON HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV WHICH ARE REPORTED SEPARATELY.

3. THE CARRILLO AFFAIR: BERLINGUER SAID HE DID NOT DISCUSS THE PCE OR CARRILLO WITH BREZHNEV AND HE PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF THE REASON THE SOVIETS DENIED CARRILLO THE FLOOR TO ADDRESS THE ANNIVERSARY MEETINGS NOV 2-3. HE SAID SOME SOVIETS WERE CLAIMING THAT THE REASON WAS THAT CARRILLO ARRIVED LATE TO THE MEETINGS AND OTHERS SAID HE HAD NOT SUBMITTED AN ADVANCED TEXT TO THE SOVIETS AS WAS REQUIRED. BERLINGUER MENTIONED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN TO HONECKER WHO THOUGHT THAT CARRILLO HAD GONE TOO FAR IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE PAST AND THAT THE SOVIETS NOW CONSIDER HIM A "HERETIC." HONECKER COMPARED THE SITUATION TO THAT EXISTING BETWEEN THE VATICAN AND ARCHBISHOP LEFEBVRE. BERLINGUER LAUGHED AND TOLD HIS EMBASSY INTERLOCUTORS THAT HE AGREED WITH HONECKER'S SIMILE.

4. MOSCOW AND EUROCOMMUNISM: BERLINGUER SPECULATED THAT THE REASON FOR THE RELATIVELY GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PCI AND THE CPSU WAS THAT THE PCI WAS SUCCESSFUL IN ITALIAN POLITICS AND THAT THE SOVIETS ONLY UNDERSTAND AND RESPECT SUCCESS. HE SPOKE POSITIVELY OF THE WORK OF THE PCE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ITS SUCCESS, BUT THE OTHERS PRESENT SAID THEY THOUGHT THE PCE COULD HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL IN THE RECENT SPANISH ELECTIONS EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE JUST BEGINNING TO WORK AS A LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY AFTER MORE THAN A GENERATION OF UNDERGROUND ACTIVITY. BERLINGUER AND HIS COLLEAGUES EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THE PCI AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN PARTIES WERE SERIOUS ABOUT SEARCHING FOR NEW WAYS AND METHODS WHICH WOULD BE VALID FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTIES IN THE WEST, AND THAT THIS SEARCH WOULD CONTINUE EVEN IF IT MEANT SOME "DANGERS" WOULD BE ENCOUNTERED.

5. BREZHNEV'S AND BERLINGUER'S SPEECHES: BERLINGUER THOUGHT BREZHNEV'S SPEECH WAS MODERATE ON THE EUROCOMMUNIST ISSUE. HE FELT THAT IT FOLLOWED THE LINES OF THE BERLIN PARTY CONFERENCE REGARDING EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND NON-INTERFERENCE BUT HE ALSO NOTED THAT EARLIER IN THE SPEECH BREZHNEV SAID THERE WAS NO MIDDLE COURSE BETWEEN WORKERS' OR BOURGEOIS POWER. AS FOR HIS OWN SPEECH BERLINGUER WAS PLEASED WITH IT, SAYING THAT IT HAD RECEIVED A GOOD PRESS IN ITALY. HE CHARACTERIZED THE SPEECH AS A FIRM, BUT CALM, EXPOSITION OF KNOWN PCI POSITIONS. BERLINGUER SAID THE PCI DELEGATION THIS TIME INCLUDED A COMPETENT RUSSIAN-

SPEAKING MEMBER WHO BIRD-DOGGED THE TRANSLATION INTO RUSSIAN SO
THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE SOVIETS CORRECTLY TRANSLATED
BERLINGUER'S IDEAS. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PCI DELEGATION NOTED
NOISES IN THE HALL WHEN BERLINGUER WAS DELIVERING THE MAIN
POINTS IN HIS PRESENTATION AND FELT THE APPLAUSE, WHICH CAME
ONLY AT THE END, WAS LACKING IN EHTHUSIASM.
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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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